

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 11 and 14 will have been amended. More specifically, objected-to claims 11 and 14 will have been rewritten into independent form. Further, claims 1-10, 12-13, and 15-20 will have been canceled without disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. In addition, claim 21 will have been newly submitted. New claim 21 corresponds substantially to objected-to claim 11, but also recites that the sharing sheet comprises opaque paper. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims in the present application, in due course.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2-4, and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by D'ANDREA. Also, the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by FEUER. Claims 12, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WAGNER (U.S. Patent No. 1,028,921). Further, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over D'ANDREA or FEUER or WAGNER. Claims 8-10 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over D'ANDREA in view of WERZBERGER (U.S. Patent No. 5,951,298). In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over FEUER or WAGNER in view of WERZBERGER.

Although Applicant does not agree with the above-mentioned rejections, Applicant has nevertheless rewritten the objected-to claims into independent form to expedite prosecution of the present application. Moreover, at least as indicated by the

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Examiner, Applicant submits that the applied references, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose the features recited in claims 11 and 14. In addition, Applicant submits that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art.

Further, Applicant notes the status of the present application as being after final rejection and with respect to such status believes that there is a clear basis for entry of the present amendment consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant notes that the amendments made to the pending claims do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration, as objected-to claims 11 and 14 have merely been rewritten into independent form. Further, new claim 21 corresponds to one of the objected-to claims, as well as to already examined features. It is also submitted that the present amendment does not raise the question of new matter. Moreover, the present amendment clearly places the present application in condition for allowance, at least due to the Examiner's indication in the outstanding Official Action.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and indication of the allowability of all claims pending herein.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the recited claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims, which have been made in this amendment and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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